

Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: [Medical Assistants \(31-9092\)](#)
Associated Occupation: [Dental Assistants \(31-9091\)](#)

[Compare Knowledge](#)
[Compare Skills](#)
[Compare Abilities](#)
[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)
[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 87

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	15.9	13.7	< Expanded education and/or training may be required
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	15.5	12.5	< Expanded education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 93

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Service Orientation	7.9	9.3	10.1	0 Current skill level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 86

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
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Arm-Hand Steadiness	6.8	10.2	5.0	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Finger Dexterity	7.6	9.6	7.5	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Control Precision	6.6	9.0	5.0	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Manual Dexterity	6.5	8.4	4.4	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Extent Flexibility	4.8	7.3	3.6	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Gross Body Coordination	3.9	5.4	4.4	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus
Occupation to Associated
Occupation: 95

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity
Assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients	84
Collect specimens from patients	82
Complete patient bills	92
Complete patient insurance forms	92
Follow dental or medical x-ray procedures	81
Follow patient care procedures	60
Maintain dental or medical records	64
Observe patient condition	48
Post medical insurance billings	89
Prepare medical treatment room	82
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Process medical records	82
Provide customer service	14
Record medical history or data	68
Schedule meetings or appointments	68
Set up patient care equipment	75
Sterilize or disinfect instruments	92
Take vital signs	56
Use clinical sterilizing technique	71
Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use secretarial procedures	92

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus
Occupation to Associated
Occupation: 47

Focus Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)
Associated Occupation: Dental Assistants (31-9091)

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Autoclave and sterilizer equipment and accessories	12
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Business function specific software	1
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Finance accounting and enterprise resource planning ERP software	2
Industry specific software	1
Information exchange software	1
Medical radiation detection or monitoring products	31
Network applications software	1
Oxygen therapy delivery systems and devices	13
Surgical equipment and accessories and related products	23

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.